



MARCH, 96

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

Well, here it is another month gone by and I find myself at the keyboard again for the 24<sup>th</sup> time. I wrote my first report in March 94 and each time I find myself looking for new things to talk about and it is becoming more difficult each time, believe me.

The new meeting place is fine but I will tell you that I am not going to sit on that dais again. It is getting too uncomfortable being away from the crowd. I miss my personal contact with you all. I am going to sit down in front beginning with the next meeting where I can get up and walk around when I feel the urge.

The new officers for this year are Marty Fowler, KE4MLH as Activities Manager; Randy Drescher, AC4PD as Treasurer; and Bill Ahls, KE4EIH as Secretary. Larry Osborne, KD4QFD and myself will be going another round. I think we have a winning combo here and I look forward to working with them.

The last report I had on the membership total was 277, which is not your

average size club. If we continue to grow I see that club house coming in the near future, won't it be grand to be able to hold meetings and all the events that we want to in our own place. We could do our own ham license teaching, code practice,

special event operating with a special QSL card to send out for all the contacts made on the club station. We could join in on all the contesting and start collecting DX cards for the club to

mount in our operating room. We could invite other hams from foreign countries to stay with us. We could do just about everything there is to do with amateur radio and then some. It will take a lot of people to run the place and it will give every member a place to hang their hat. Is this a dream? No, it is something we can do with some help and hard work by all of us if we put our heart and souls into it. Our new treasurer Randy has some old ideas that are new for this club in raising funds and I would

(Continued on page 5)



## GARS HAM OF THE MONTH LARRY OSBORNE, KD4QFD

By Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Larry is originally from Baltimore Maryland. All of his schooling, including college, was done in the Baltimore area. He is a graduate of Towson State with a triple major; education, social science and history.

Larry was always interested in electronics although he did not have any equipment when he was growing up. He could afford to buy a magazine now and then and one of his favorites was Popular Electronics because it covered such a variety of subjects. Most of his non-school time was taken up with reading and working at the usual teenager type

of jobs.

When Larry finished his schooling, he tried teaching History at the 11th grade level. After one year, he decided that the administrative load and lack of pay were not his cup of tea and moved on to make his real fortune. After a short trip through the grocery industry, Larry wound up in the insurance industry. He became a claims specialist with Kemper Insurance where he has been for more than twenty four years. (Interestingly enough, Larry thought I would not know of this company and as it turns out, I drove past the

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## THE GARZETTE

THE GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format by email to [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 236-7372, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

GARZETTE Editor

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing THE GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in THE GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for THE GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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## MEETING MINUTES

by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer Charles Evans, WA4QYY; Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF

The meeting was called to order by President Gould at 19:30 local time at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville.

All members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves with a total of sixty five persons signing the meeting log.

The meeting was then turned over to Neil Foster, KC4MJ who presented a program on a DX expedition to Egypt.

The business meeting resumed with Steve Diggs, KB4ZTN making a donation of \$120.00 from the East Atlanta LAN to be used in restoration and repairs of the Snellville site.

The minutes for the January meeting were approved as published in THE GARZETTE.

Charles Evans, WA4QYY gave the treasurer's report which was approved as read.

Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW reported that Charles Robison, AD4MI had requested that the nominating committee withdraw his name from consideration as Activities Manager.

President Gould opened the floor for nominations for officers and Ike Chapman, KE4GYM nominated Randy Drescher, AC4PD for treasurer. No other nominations were made and the request for nominations was closed by President Gould. Beverly Byrant, KE4VDI requested that her name be withdrawn from consideration as Treasurer and the request was accepted without opposition. The slate of officers presented for elections was President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer Randy Drescher, AC4PD, and Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH. A motion was made and seconded that the slate be accepted by acclimation. The motion was approved without opposition.

President Gould reported that John Farr, KD6CLO had resigned as Membership Chairman and that he was appointing David Adcock, KA4KKF to replace John. President Gould also announced that Jim Baker, KR4XY would take over as Publicity Chairman, Ike Chapman, KE4GYM would continue as Newsletter Editor, and that David Schulte, KE4WSJ would become the TVI Chairman.

Eddie Foust, KD4JEM reported on the status of the new remote receivers and plans for tuning and adjusting them.

David Adcock, KA4KKF presented eight new applicants for membership in GARS. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented, the motion passed without opposition. The new members of GARS are: John H. Newman, KF4GFA; Jim Reeves, KF4GEZ; Richard M. Lamb, KC4AJF; Bob Laine, AD4DQ; Grant Tomlin, KF4FTL; Randy Jarrett, WA4MEI; Waldo Marsh, KE4KQB; and Stephen Wojcik, KD9VP.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:33 local time by President Gould.

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### Random Ramblings

"The problem is not that there are problems. The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking that having problems is a problem."

>>>Theodore Rubin



## GARS GROWS AGAIN!

Eight new members were voted in at the February meeting.

John H. Newman, KF4GFA  
Jim Reeves, KF4GEZ  
Richard M. Lamb, KC4AJF  
Bob Laine, AD4DQ  
Grant Tomlin, KF4FTL  
Randy Jarrett, WA4MEI  
Waldo Marsh, KE4KQB  
Stephen Wojcik, KD9VP

This brings the GARS membership to a total of 277 members.



## HELP WANTED! GARS HAM OF THE MONTH COLUMNIST

Pickett Cummins, AD4S is retiring as columnist for one of the most popular monthly columns in **THE GARZETTE**.

The search is on for a replacement to become the new columnist for the HOM articles. Pickett has agreed to finish out the next several issues before hanging up the word processor.

If you are interested in becoming the next HOM columnist, contact the editor of **THE GARZETTE** at (770) 339-8123 for further information.



## INTERNET UPDATE

by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

I wanted to bring everyone up to date on the current status of getting GARS on the Internet and pass along some offers being made to club members.

The effort to get GARS on the World Wide Web continues with support from Grant Tomlin, KF4FTL, Randy Jarrett, WA4MEI, and Michael McFadden, N8NYH. Grant is working on the layout of the web page and is working with Randy to get the domain name *gars.org* registered on the Internet. Michael has offered a home for the GARS web pages. Grant hopes to have the initial layout for the web page done soon but as of this writing we do not have a target date for getting the page online.

Both Michael and Randy have provided offers for the club members to get Internet access. Michael's offer is for a PPP account with unlimited access for \$19.95 per month with a one time setup fee of \$19.95. Randy offers a similar deal for \$20 per month. If you're looking for Internet access please contact Michael at (770)945-5130 or Randy at (770)822-4073 for more information.

While we're on the subject of the Internet, if you have an Internet mail address, if you will send a message to [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) I'll be glad to add you the GARS mailing list and send you an updated copy of the list.

I'd also like to remind everyone that **THE GARZETTE** is available via email now. You have a choice of getting the newsletter by snail mail, email, or both. If you would like to be added to the distribution list for **THE GARZETTE** send an email message to me at the above address.



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1996-1997

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## The Way I See It - Part 2

### FCC Part 97 - Subpart A - General Provisions

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

Quoting directly from the authority cited:

#### Section 97.1 - Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Well now .. how about that ? Not one word in there about having fun. Nothing there about providing a convenient family communications service. What is in there is objective, serious and for the benefit of someone other than the individual amateur radio operator. In short, the FCC thinks the following oversimplifications are what this service is for:

- (a) Recognize the value of amateur radio in times of emergency.
- (b) Contribute to the advancement

of the ART. (as opposed to SCIENCE).

- (c) Improvement of the service through rules.
- (d) Expand the reservoir of trained operators, technicians and experts. (remaining at the Technician Class license for life is probably not what the FCC had in mind).
- (e) Enhance international goodwill. (This means that many amateurs on all bands need to watch their language and attend an attitude adjustment class.)

Now that we have one of the biggest misunderstandings out of the way, lets look at S 97.3 Definitions.

There are three sub parts to S 97.3. These are:

- (a) Definition of Terms
- (b) Definition of Technical Symbols
- (c) Definition of Emission Types.

There are 46 terms defined in (a), 11 terms in (b) and 9 terms in (c). In (a), some of the choice definitions include: Amateur Operator, Amateur Radio Services, Amateur Station, Broadcasting, Control Operator, Control Point, CSCE, Harmful Interference, International Morse Code, Physician, Question Pool, Repeater, Third-party, VE, and VEC.

The following technical symbols are defined in (b): EHF, HF, Hz, m, MF, PEP, RF, SHF, UHF, VHF and W.

The following emission types are defined in (c): CW, Data, Image, MCW, Phone, Pulse, RTTY, SS and Test.

These definitions are obviously an effort to reduce the amount of

interpretation that can be applied to the rules and regulations. Unfortunately, some definitions don't go far enough. A case in point is the technical term PEP. Those of us who have been hams for a while remember when this term applied only to suppressed carrier emissions. As you will see later, this is not made clear in any other part of this document. This same definition also was changed in the 1980's to make the measurement of RF power as that being applied to the antenna transmission line. Formerly, measurement was at the input to the final amplifier and could be measured very precisely using the voltage present under load and the emf current present in the final amplifier circuit during key down conditions.

The issue of "legal limit" is probably number one in the conversions that take place regarding Part 97 and this definition continues to leave a lot of interpretation to the application of these rules.

Having dealt with two of the more talked about issues created by Part 97, I think I will stop for the time being. We will pick up Subpart A in the next article with S 97.5 - Station License Required.

73 de AD4S.

#### Random Ramblings

"Never explain--your friends do not need it, and your enemies will not believe it anyway."

- unknown

"The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage."

- Mark Russell



## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

*(Continued from page 1)*

like all of us to follow his advice and leadership in trying to raise the funds we need for our club house. Lets do it.

Our new membership chairman David Adcock, KA4KKF has been around for some time and I think once he gets rolling with his new job we should see a change for the good for you new members.

Our new PR chairman Jim Baker, KR4XY has also been around with us handling the GARS clothing. He is going to do a bang up job for the club in his new position.

I understand the field day committee is off and running with Joe Biddle, AD4PZ leading the group. Joe is another go getter who was our past PR man and he will be in there giving it his all with the rest of the committee.

Our newsletter editor Ike Chapman, KE4GYM is full of new ideas for the GARZETTE which will mean a bigger and better newsletter. It is just another amazing thing about our club having so much talent out there just itching to do something one step beyond the last effort. Which is not to say that the previous editor, Dean Matthews, AD4OD, did not do his best. He did and it was a fine newsletter that he was churning out.

Pickett Cummins, AD4S as you know is the new club trustee and a finer person you could hardly find around nowadays. He did a fine job with the Ham Of The Month column but he is retiring from that to go on and do better things for the GARS, so we are in need of a replacement for him. Won't you volunteer?

Cheryl McClure, AE4HN has a helper now with Bev Bryant, KE4VDI picking up the code practice once a month, so won't you volunteer to help?

Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI has been handling the net when he is in town but he needs help with the weekly Tuesday night net, won't you please volunteer? *(Ed. Note - This is a great way for new hams to learn how to handle traffic. One of the first things I got involved in with GARS was net control for the Tuesday night net. Once you get past the first few callsigns, you can relax and have a great time with it, I hope some folks will step forward and help out Jeff. KE4GYM)*

We are looking for volunteers for the Atlanta hamfest in June you need to get your name on the list early. This is a big event for the club as we run security for that hamfest and we get a lot of help with our treasury with a good donation from them so it is important that you get with Marty Fowler, KE4MLH early in the game. We get free tickets for every one working the fest and a special drawing for prizes for the workers. The tickets are not the regular ones and are not good for the regular prizes, but you do get in free after you put your time in. So lets make this another year for the GARS and I would like to see Marty, with a full booking.

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD is running with the no code tech class and is planning a new class for April. This is a GARS sponsored event and all students who get a license immediately after taking the class are eligible for one year free membership in the GARS. We support Larry's efforts to do this and just shows how much this guy contributes to the club. Thanks Larry.

I see the need for learning out there in the membership and it is just great that we have so many willing to learn and so many folks willing to teach. Charles Robison, AD4MI and a few others wanted to get involved with antenna design and radiation patterns so they went out last Sunday afternoon and had a ball. This is true ama-

teur spirit and I urge many of you to get into things and enjoy what you learn and pass that information along to others.

I became aware of another possible remote site that looks very promising, in fact it seems to be better than Goshen Springs in solving our coverage to the east, south and west. We are in the process of getting clearance at this time to use this site. There are no intermod problems and security is of the highest standards we could ask for. It looks like an excellent site for VHF/UHF and is very clean. It may mean the moving of Goshen Springs to this one with Snellville being reserved for Packet and our 440 machine, but this is pure speculation at this time. We are going to do the best for the system that we can.

Well I am going to cut it short this time and get on with the club business at hand. I am grateful to all you new members who joined us last month as your membership makes us that much stronger to go on and do more and better things for the club. We have membership renewals coming up next month on April 1<sup>st</sup> and I do hope as you read this newsletter that you seriously consider the value of your membership and renew with us. To be strong and stay alive today we need to be active and do all we can to keep the hobby interesting enough so that we do not get bored to death. Your membership dues will be used to make the club grow and to foster friendship. Stick with us, I will miss you if you go because I can call you all my friends.

73

Howie, W4NVF

♦♦♦

## Random Ramblings

"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be."

- Douglas Adams



## dB'S FOR AMATEURS

By Charles Robison, AD4MI

Most amateurs have heard the term dB as in, a 6 dB gain antenna or a 3 dB cable loss, but many do not have a useful understanding of what it means. I have seen dB used to compare audio, voltage, and power levels. This article will deal with power levels. Most of what you will read is partly true, but certainly not all of it will be entirely true. This is a very technical and sometimes complicated subject but I hope to keep it simple enough to be useful.

The ugly truth is, a bel is a logarithm of the ratio of two power levels. A decibel (dB) is one tenth of a bel.  $[db=10\log(P1/P2)]$  To me this means that Power-in compared to Power-out is measured in dB's.

That still doesn't say much, so let me give an example. If your two meter radio puts out 50 watts, and it is connected to an antenna through a 100 feet of RG-58 cable, the power applied to the antenna will be reduced by 6.5 dB to approximately 12 watts. The cable will dissipate the 6.5 dB loss in the form of heat.

I estimate this by assuming that reducing the power by 3 dB is the same as reducing it to one-half of it's original level. To determine the level of -6 dB you can divide by two twice, 50 watts divided by 2 = 25 watts, then 25 watts divided by 2 = 12.5 watts. We won't worry about the .5 dB, we just know that the level will be a little less than 12.5 watts. To determine the level for a 9 dB reduction you will divide by 2 three times,  $50W/2 = 25W/2 = 12.5W/2 = 6.3W$ . You can reduce a level by 10 dB by moving the decimal point one place to the left, which is the same as dividing the number by 10. So that 50 watts reduced by 10 dB is 5 watts,  $50W/10 = 5W$ . A 20 dB reduction moves the decimal place two places to the left, a 30 dB reduction moves it 3

places, a 40 dB reduction moves it 4, and so on. ( $50W - 20 dB = .5W$ ,  $50W - 30 dB = .05W$ ,  $50W - 40 dB = .005W$ )

To determine the affect of +3 dB **gain**, you simply multiply instead of dividing. For example, if you put 5 watts into a device that has +3 dB gain, the output will be 10 watts. An input of 5 watts into a device with +10 dB gain will have an output of 50 watts. Sometimes you will find devices like linear amplifiers that claim a gain of so many dB but stipulate what the maximum output is X watts. If a linear has a gain +10 dB and a maximum output of 35 watts and you put in 5 watts your output will be 35 watts not 50 watts, but you can get 35 watts out with as little as 3.5 watts input.

We have discussed dB as a ratio between two power levels, it can be a comparison to a reference level. For example, +10 dBw is 10 dB greater than 1 watt, or 10 watts. ( $1 \text{ watt} \times 10 = 10 \text{ watts}$ ). The term dBm is in reference to 1 millawatt. You will find antenna gain described in two ways, dBd and dBi. Gain stated in dBd is compared to the results that you would have using a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength dipole antenna. Gain stated as dBi or dB is -2.1 dB less than a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wave dipole.

**Caution:** If the stated gain of an antenna sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Similar antennas have similar gain.

How can a piece of metal have gain? It can't, but it can allow you to talk as if you were using a much higher power level. If you held a light bulb out of a flashlight at one end of a gymnasium you probably could not see a person standing on the other end. If you put the same bulb in the reflector of the flashlight you could see them with no problem. The

bulb is no brighter, but all of it's light is focused in one direction. This is how an antenna appears to have gain. A vertical 2 meter 18 inch dipole (like on the roof of your car) radiates radio signals in all directions except straight up and straight down. This will have a gain close to 0 dBd. If you were to replace it with a yagi pointed toward the front of the car, most of the signal would forward and very little would go to the rear of the car. This is what we call gain. A yagi would look silly on top of your car but you can get about +3 dB gain by installing a "5/8 Wave" on your car. The gain of a 5/8 antenna comes from its ability to project the signal at a lower angle, and less of the signal goes into the sky. This can be a big advantage sometimes if you are using 5 watts or less in borderline areas. Remember, you do not increase the amount of power, you simply make it go where you need it. It is also important to realize that you will receive better in that direction too. Enough for now and good luck.

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### Random Ramblings

"Science is the orderly arrangement of what, at the moment, seem to be the facts."

Anon.

"Meetings - The practical alternative to work"

As seen on a coffee mug

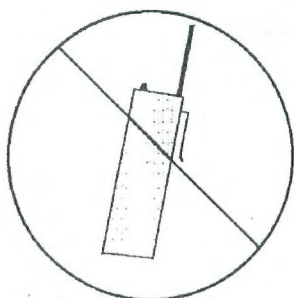
**Calvin:** "People think it must be fun to be a super genius, but they don't realise how hard it is to put up with all the idiots in the world."

**Hobbes:** "Isn't your pants' zipper supposed to be in the front?"

◆◆◆



## LEAVE THE H-T BEHIND IF YOU'RE OLYMPICS-BOUND



Andrew Funk, KB7UV, a member of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee, has issued a word of warning for hams coming to Atlanta for the Olympics: Leave your H-Ts at home!

"To say things are going to be tightly controlled is an understatement," Funk said, adding that all broadcast-related RF gear will be required to pass an Olympic certification inspection in addition to that required by the FCC. "And I once found Amateur repeater coordination difficult!" joked Funk, who's Assistant News Operations Manager at WAGA-TV in Atlanta.

Funk said the policy will "unfortunately have an impact upon Radio Amateurs attending the games." Since VHF and UHF handheld radios are known to be easily modified for wideband use, security officers will not permit amateur H-Ts at Olympic venues, he said. "Some may argue that this policy is unreasonable. It may or may not be, but it will be in effect and enforced," Funk emphasized.

Michael Smalls, the co-chair of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee was sympathetic: "We wish it was different," he said. "But, Atlanta is already pretty crowded."

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Electronic Update published by the American Radio Relay League.

## SWAP SHOP CORNER

*Ed. note - Got something you'd like to sell, swap, or buy? This column will be available to GARS members for that purpose. The column will be run depending on space available and demand.*

For Sale: Compaq 486SX2, 66 MHZ, 420 MB Hard Drive, 4 MB RAM(expandable to 64 MB), 3.5-inch 1.44 MB Diskette Drive, CD-ROM, integrated 16 bit sound system with speakers and microphone, 14.4 bps Modem, FAX and answering machine, local bus graphics, serial, parallel, and game port connectors, \$1099, Contact Cheryl McClure, AE4HN, (770) 995-5159.

### Random Ramblings

"A memory is what is left when something happens and does not completely happen."

Edward de Bono

"I'm extraordinarily patient provided I get my own way in the end."

Margaret Thatcher

## A HAM'S BEST FRIEND?

*submitted by Steve Burel, AD4LY*



CQC TOP 10 REASONS WHY A DOG IS A GOOD HAM SHACK COMPANION:

10. He doesn't need a chair.

9. He always answers when you call.

8. He provides entertainment when the band has gone to the dogs.

7. He keeps your feet warm on those cold contest nights.

6. He never reminds you what time it is.

5. He knows what it's like to fight through a dog-pile.

4. He doesn't try to talk when you're copying code.

3. He's one guy whose CW skills are WORSE than YOUR OWN.

2. He doesn't care how much money you spend on QRP gear.

1. He always listens BEFORE he barks.

Reprinted from the "Low Down" courtesy of COLORADO QRP CLUB, Inc.



## ALL SERVICE

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Serving Gwinnett and Metro  
Atlanta since 1969

Mention this ad for 10% off  
any termite or pest control  
service.

FREE TERMITE ESTIMATES!

932-2569

Dwayne  
Scurlock

James  
Benson



## GARSHAM OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 1)

Kemper headquarters every day on my way to work when I lived in the Chicago area.) Larry said he really enjoys the claims business since it forces you to be a jack of all trades and wind up learning about all sorts of interesting subjects. He has learned an awful lot about consumer products.

Kemper sent Larry to Chicago, New Orleans and Shreveport before they finally sent him to Atlanta. We think the last move was fortunate for GARS, we hope Larry feels the same way.

Larry always enjoyed listening to AM radio and even as a kid listened to foreign broadcast on cheap radios. At one point his in-laws gave him an inexpensive all band radio and he listened to everything from police and fire to radio Moscow. He even enjoyed listening to some of the beacons that are out there. His real foray into the world of radio came when he received his 20 year service bonus. He took part of it and went out looking for a really good receiver. What he decided was that for almost the same money, he could get a receiver AND a transmitter in the same box. With this thought in mind, Larry proceeded to get his Technician License so he could justify the purchase of an ICOM 735 HF transceiver.

Larry said that he had tried CB radio at one time but did not find anything appealing about it and abandoned it after a short time.

He got his present call, KD4QFD. He went ahead and began acquiring his equipment even before the ticket arrived. This is in 1992 when you had to wait 15 or 16 weeks for the license to arrive and you could not get on the air until you had the paper in your hand. (Think about it...3 years ago was those OLD DAYS.) Larry also got an Alinco DJ580 for VHF/UHF. He put up a G5RV for the HF bands and began to operate. He also had a donated 2 meter Ringo Ranger that he used at home. A GARS member donated the Ringo on the one condition that when Larry was finished with it that he give it to some other aspiring newcomer with the same provisions. (Think of the generations that will use that antenna)

Larry had heard about GARS by listening on his new equipment and actually joined GARS in 1992 before he had his license. He continued to study to upgrade his license and started learning the code. Larry will tell you now that CW is not one of his favorite things to do but he is known to be the author of the term "Hear and Spell." In December, 1992 he passes both the 13 wpm code test and the General written and upgraded to General Class. In January, 1993, Larry passed the written test and upgraded to Advanced Class. I asked Larry why

he kept his original call sign and he said that he had heard that the vanity call signs would be available and he didn't want to buy new QSL cards anyway.

Larry became interested in working DX right away. This seems to be an extension of his SWL activities all the way back to his youth. Things really picked up when he got a really good buy (steal) on a Butternut beam complete with mast, rotor, cables and everything. Larry now has 200 countries confirmed. That's pretty good work considering the fact that we have been in the pits of the sunspot cycle. Larry will work most any kind of DX opportunity but he really likes the rag chew type of QSO.

Larry also takes his IC-735 in his truck when he has to make long business trips. He said that he really works "mobile/stationary" since his windshield wipers come on any time he keys up on 20, 17 or 15 meters. Ah, the problems of modern technology. I once knew a ham who bought a brand new Cadillac and the engine quit running every time he keyed up on 2 meters. He now has more than 2,000 contacts on logged on HF.

By 1994, Larry and his wife, Sharon had decided to move away from the hustle and bustle of metropolitan Lilburn. They built a new home on a larger piece of property in the northern reaches of Gwinnett County. Larry said the move was not motivated by

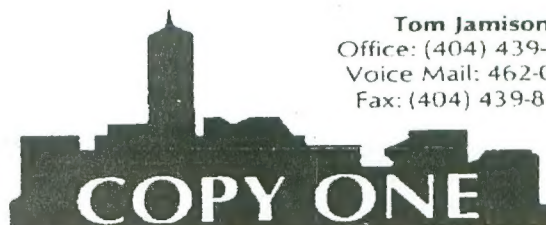
(Continued on page 9)

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## GARSHAM OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 8)

ham radio, but it sure was a big factor as to where they were going to move. His new property is on high ground. The move was completed in the summer of 1995 and Larry proceeded to upgrade his antenna system.

With the able assistance of several GARS members, most notably, Frank Deak, AF4Y and Ron Davidson, K4HRB (talk about old timers) Larry did himself proud and put up a new tower with a 5 band, Force Twelve C-3 beam. The donated Ringo is also up on top. For the records, the tower is 50 feet high (more or less). Larry said he is really enjoying the additional contacts this system allows during the poor propagation conditions.

Larry was elected to the office of Vice President in 1994, and was reelected in 1995 and 1996. (Now there is commitment if I ever saw it.) Larry was the "straw boss" for the portable tower project and was also responsible for the security at the HAM95. Larry said those were two great demonstrations of what GARS could do when everyone was working together. He said the thing that impressed him the most was that roughly 40 percent of the membership participated in the security activity.

More recently, Larry volunteered to take over the no code class that had been taught by Steve Idler who got transferred out of the Atlanta area. He is looking forward to rekindling his own knowledge of electronics while he is doing this. He is looking forward to finishing all the items attendant with moving to his new QTH with its elevated location and antenna system so he can get in even more operating time.

Larry would like to see GARS keep going on its present road of accomplishment and growth. He wants GARS it to continue to be a fun place to be and hopes to keep bringing new people into the hobby. He also hopes to be able to be an Elmer for someone for at sometime. He said he didn't have an Elmer to get into the hobby and all of his learning was self study. he said he did have a couple of great Elmers help him after he had his ticket and was already on the air.

Larry has one daughter who lives with him and Sharon. GARS is very fortunate to have a member and Officer of Larry's caliber and if you haven't met him, be sure to look him up at the next Club meeting or GARS activity and tell him hello.



## HOG MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE

By Jim Baker, KR4XY

It is almost time again for the Hog Mountain Century Bike Ride. This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> with a start time of 8:00 A.M..

If you are familiar with GARS' participation in past events, this year will be similar. The Ride Base Station will be at the Suwanee Holiday Inn and will be coordinated by Jim Baker, KR4XY. There will be several stations located at the rest stops along the route as well as chase cars to provide radio communication for the Bike Ride. We need 25 - 30 volunteers to be sure the entire route is covered and that the riders are assisted when necessary.

We would like to suggest that you bring your HT, extra batteries, and a magnetic mount antenna if you have one. Also, if anyone wants to bring their vehicle with a 50W mobile unit, several will be required.

To be a part of the Ride, please contact Jim Baker, KR4XY at (770)623-5535, or sign up at the next GARS meeting.

We expect another successful Bike Ride. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Hog Mountain Century Bike Ride.

### Work GARS

**REPEATERS**  
2-Meter 147.075 MHz \*800  
PL 82.5  
70-cm 444.525 MHz \*5MHz  
PL 156.7

**TELEPHONE BBS**  
GARS Conference in  
Scientific-Atlanta BBS  
(770) 236-7372

**6-METER BEACON**  
WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at  
50.075 MHz

**PACKET**  
WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet  
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

**SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET**  
Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the  
GARS 2m Repeater.

**MORSE CODE PRACTICE**  
An interactive Morse Code practice session  
follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on  
the GARS 2m repeater.

**PACKET RADIO USERS NET**  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the GARS  
2m Repeater.



## ROOKIE RADIO NOTES

By Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Spring is right around the corner and opportunities are springing up for rookies. Just look at what is in store for GARS.

Charles, AD4MI, has been leading a group demonstrating the radiation patterns of a dipole antenna. There's still more to come, so if you are interested, keep your radio on the GARS repeater and listen for the meeting times.

There will be a radio demonstration at Sam's Club, parades, Ham Fests and the Hog Mountain Bike race coming soon. You can learn a lot about radio operations from any one and have fun playing with a variety of ham gear.

If you really want to learn a lot quickly, take up the GARS Challenge! If you don't have your own equipment, I'll link you up with a radio "buddy" and you can make contacts with other GARS members on packet, VHF, and HF (phone and/or CW). By completing each challenge, you will keep a log of your contacts and also get an idea of what contesting is all about.

The GARS picnic is coming up in July. We usually have a Fox Hunt, so start working on those direction finding antennas now. You too can confound and amaze non-ham onlookers with your curious contraption.

If there is enough interest, Howie, W4NVF, has consented to directing another HowieLab. What

would you like to build? Maybe a keyer or a two meter transceiver? Let me know and we will be under-way!

There are towers to be taken down. Even if you don't need one right now, lend a hand and see just what is involved in moving a tower. When you are ready to own one, you'll know what to look for and what is involved. For information on any or all of these opportunities, listen to the weekly net on Tuesday nights at 8 PM or call me for details (770-995-5159).



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A reminder that membership dues for GARS become due for the new fiscal year on April 1. David Adcock, KA4KKF, GARS Membership Chairman will be mailing out a renewal notice during this month. The notice will also contain some information that we need to update the GARS membership database. Please fill out the form and return it with your dues as soon as possible. Any member that does not have his/her dues remitted by June 1 will be dropped from the membership rolls.



## HAM RADIO WORKS WHEN PHONES FAIL

Ham operators worked together in the early hours of February 13 to help save a seriously ill infant after telephone service broke down between Magnolia, LA, and Little Rock, AK.

The Magnolia Hospital attempted to arrange emergency air transport of the youngster to Children's Hospital in Little Rock when they discovered long-distance service was out. The ambulance service contacted James McClellan, KC5HII, an EMT in Magnolia, and asked if he could contact Little Rock. McClellan got in touch with Jeff Broome, KC5QKF, in Shreveport, Louisiana, and he was able to contact Children's Hospital by telephone. McClellan and his wife, Annette, KC5HXH, then relayed information from a Magnolia Hospital emergency room physician through Broome and his wife, Kimberly, KC4SSD, to a doctor at Children's Hospital, which dispatched a helicopter to transport the child to Little Rock. The hams maintained the ham radio/telephone link to provide treatment instructions and information on the infant's condition until a direct telephone line finally was established.

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, Electronic Update published by the American Radio Relay League.

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## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803  
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758  
Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710  
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church

Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday- 2:30PM- N Atlanta ARRL/VEC- Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025  
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
Headphones!

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.

# THE GARZETTE

MARCH, 96

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30226



GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on March 21 at 7:30 P.M.